

In the Claims

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1. (Currently amended) A method for using a system for on-line recruitment comprising the step of:

receiving over a network from a computer terminal an individual's on-line consent to an electronic agreement relating to the release of at least one of medical and ~~personal~~ personally identifying information.

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2. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the electronic agreement is a click wrap consent agreement.

3. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising generating an electronic survey form to be displayed at the computer terminal, ~~in response to receipt of the individual's consent to the electronic agreement.~~

4. (Currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 3, wherein the electronic survey form comprises at least one of ~~personal~~ personally identifying and medical related questions.

5. (Previously amended) A method in accordance with claim 3, further comprising encrypting data entered by the individual in response to the survey form.

6. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 5, further comprising transmitting the encrypted data to a secure server via the network.

7. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 6, wherein the network is one of an Internet, world wide web, intranet, local area network, wide area network, and wireless communication network.

8. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 6, further comprising decrypting the data received at said secure server.

9. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 8, further comprising storing the decrypted data in a first memory device associated with said secure server.

10. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 9, further comprising processing the decrypted data retrieved from the first memory device.

11. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 10, further comprising encrypting the processed data.

12. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 11, further comprising replacing the decrypted data in the first memory device with the encrypted processed data.

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6

13. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 12, further comprising transmitting the encrypted processed data from said secure server to a central office.

14. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 13, further comprising storing the encrypted processed data in a second memory device associated with said central office.

15. (Currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 14, wherein in response to a request from an authorized individual, further comprising the steps of:

~~in response to a request from an authorized individual~~, retrieving the encrypted processed data from the second memory device; and

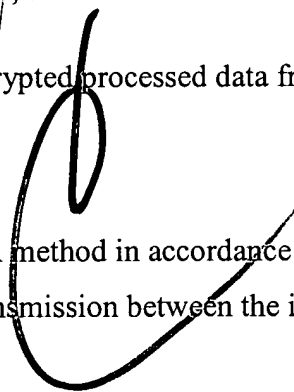
decrypting the retrieved encrypted processed data from the second memory device.

16. (Previously amended) A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising generating a certificate to verify transmission between the individual and the secure server.

17. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 3, wherein the computer terminal employs a web browser capable of supporting a secure socket layer protocol.

18. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 8, further comprising ensuring that decrypted data stored at said secure server is not accessed by unauthorized personnel.

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19. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 18, wherein said ensuring step comprises at least one of limiting access to said secure server to a minimum number of authorized personnel, identifying as authorized personnel only trustworthy employees, and devising and implementing procedures to ensure that only authorized personnel gain access to the decrypted data.

20. (Previously amended) A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising generating using said secure server an electronic opt-out form to be displayed on the computer terminal to remove the individual's name from a list of consenting individuals.

21. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the electronic agreement satisfies all federal, state, and local rules, ordinances and regulations.

22. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 11, wherein said secure server encrypts the data based on a shareware encryption protocol.

23. (Currently amended) The method in accordance with claim ~~27~~22, wherein said shareware encryption protocol is Pretty Good Privacy.

24. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 15, wherein said decryption of the retrieved encrypted data from the second memory device is performed using encryption keys stored on a disk kept under physical surveillance.

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25. (Currently amended) A method for using a system for on-line recruitment comprising the step of:

providing on-line consent by an individual at a computer terminal to an electronic agreement relating to the release of at least one of medical and ~~personal~~ personally identifying information.

26. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 25, wherein the electronic agreement is a click wrap consent agreement.

27. (Currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 25, further comprising, ~~after providing consent to the electronic agreement,~~ responding at the individual's computer terminal to information solicited in an electronic survey form.

28. (Currently amended) A method in accordance with claim 27, wherein the electronic survey form comprises at least one of ~~personal~~ personally identifying and medical related questions.

29. (Previously amended) A method in accordance with claim 27, wherein the electronic survey form is received by the individual's computer terminal via a network.

30. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 29, wherein the network is one of an Internet, world wide web, Intranet, local area network, wide area network, and wireless communications network.

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31. (Currently amended) A system for on-line recruitment over a network comprising:
a secure server generating an electronic agreement; and

at least one computer terminal on which is displayed the electronic agreement, said at least one computer terminal used by an individual to provide consent to said electronic agreement to release at least one of medical and personally identifying data, said secure server and said at least one computer terminal being connected via the network.

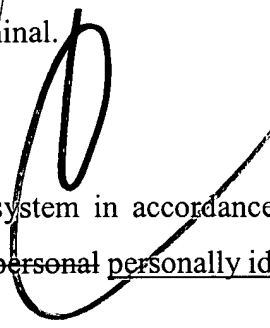
32. (Currently amended) A system in accordance with claim 31, wherein said secure server, ~~in response to the individual consenting to the electronic agreement,~~ generates an electronic survey form at said at least one computer terminal.

33. (Currently amended) A system in accordance with claim 32, wherein the electronic survey form comprises at least one of ~~personal~~ personally identifying and medical related questions.

34. (Currently amended) A system in accordance with claim 33, wherein said at least one computer terminal is used to enter at least one of ~~personal~~ personally identifying and medical data in response to the questions in the electronic survey form.

35. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 34, wherein said at least one computer terminal includes web browser software for encrypting the response data entered at said at least one computer terminal.

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36. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 35, wherein said encrypted response data is received by said secure server from said at least one computer terminal via the network.

37. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 36, wherein said secure server decrypts the encrypted response data.

38. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 37, wherein said secure server includes a first memory device for storing the decrypted response data.

39. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 38, wherein said secure server processes the decrypted response data retrieved from said first memory device.

40. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 39, wherein said secure server encrypts the processed data.

41. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 40, wherein said secure server replaces the decrypted response data in said first memory device with said encrypted processed data.

42. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 41, further comprising a central office connected to said secure server.

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43. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 42, wherein said secure server and central office are a single device at the same location.

44. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 43, wherein said central office receives the encrypted processed data transmitted from said secure server.

45. (Currently amended) A system in accordance with claim 44, wherein said central office includes a second memory device for storing the encrypted processed data.

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46. (Currently amended) A system in accordance with claim 45, wherein in response to a request from an authorized individual, the system further comprising said central office, in response to a request from an authorized individual, retrieves and decrypts retrieving and decrypting the encrypted processed data from said second memory device.

47. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 35, wherein said web browser software is capable of supporting a secure socket layer protocol.

48. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 46, wherein said secure server ensures that the decrypted processed data is not accessed by unauthorized personnel.

49. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 48, wherein said secure server ensures that the decrypted processed data is not accessed by unauthorized personnel by limiting access to said secure server to a minimum number of authorized personnel.

50. (Previously amended) A system in accordance with claim 31, wherein said secure server generates an electronic opt-out form on said at least one computer terminal to remove an individual's name from a list of consenting individuals.

51. (Currently amended) A system in accordance with claim 31, wherein said electronic agreement satisfies all federal, state and local laws and regulations concerning dissemination of medical, health and ~~personal~~ personally identifying information.

52. (Original) A system in accordance with claim 31, wherein said network is one of an Internet, world wide web, Intranet, local area network, wide area network, and wireless communication network.

53. (Currently amended) A method in accordance with claim ~~62~~ 1, further comprising the step of receiving the end user's selection of at least one from a list of a plurality of possible clinical trials to volunteer as a potential candidate.

54. (Original) A method in accordance with claim 53, further comprising the step of permitting access of at least one of medical and ~~personal~~ personally identifying information only by representatives of the selected clinical trials.

55. (Previously added) A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the on-line recruitment is of candidates for clinical trials and the individual is an end user.

56. (Previously added) A method in accordance with claim 55, wherein the electronic agreement relates to volunteering as a potential candidate for a clinical trial.

57. (Previously added) A method in accordance with claim 56, further comprising generating using said secure server an electronic opt-out form to be displayed on the computer terminal to remove the end user's name from a list of volunteers as possible candidates for clinical trials.

58. (Previously added) A method in accordance with claim 25, wherein the on-line recruitment is of candidates for clinical trials and the individual is an end user.

59. (Previously added) A method in accordance with claim 58, wherein the electronic agreement relates to volunteering as a potential candidate for a clinical trial.

60. (Previously added) A system in accordance with claim 31, wherein the on-line recruitment is of candidates for clinical trials and the individual is an end user.

61. (Previously added) A system in accordance with claim 60, wherein the electronic agreement relates to volunteering as a potential candidate for a clinical trial.

62. (Previously added) A system in accordance with claim 61, wherein said secure server generates an electronic opt-out form on said at least one computer terminal to remove a volunteer's name as a possible candidate for clinical trials.

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63. (New) A method in accordance with claim 3 further comprising displaying the electronic survey form in response to receipt of the individual's consent to the electronic agreement.

64. (New) A method in accordance with claim 15 wherein the authorized individual reviews the encrypted processed data and selects a potential candidate volunteer as a potential candidate, the method comprising:

communicating to the potential candidate volunteer the selection as the potential candidate.

65. (New) A method in accordance with claim 64 wherein the communication comprises one of:

(a) the central office contacting the potential candidate in order to request permission for the authorized individual to contact the potential candidate;

(b) the central office providing the authorized individual with contact information for the potential candidate and the authorized individual communicating with the potential candidate; and

(c) the central office communicating to the potential candidate the selection and providing contact information for the potential candidate to initiate contact with the one of the authorized individual and an employee of the clinical trial associated with the authorized individual.

66. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the personally identifying information is one of name, address, telephone number, e-mail address and name with birth date.

67. (New) A method in accordance with claim 27 further comprising displaying the electronic survey form in response to receipt of the individual's consent to the electronic agreement.

68. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein the personally identifying information is one of name, address, telephone number, e-mail address and name with birth date.

69. (New) A system in accordance with claim 32 wherein said secure server generates the electronic survey in response to the individual consenting to the electronic agreement.

70. (New) A system in accordance with claim 46 wherein the authorized individual reviews the encrypted processed data and selects a potential candidate volunteer as a potential candidate, the system further comprising:

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the potential candidate volunteer receiving a communication informing him of his selection as the potential candidate.

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71. (New) A system in accordance with claim 70 wherein the communication comprises one of:

(a) the central office contacting the potential candidate in order to request permission for the authorized individual to contact the potential candidate;

(b) the central office providing the authorized individual with contact information for the potential candidate and the authorized individual communicating with the potential candidate; and

(c) the central office communicating to the potential candidate the selection and providing contact information for the potential candidate to initiate contact with the one of the authorized individual and an employee of the clinical trial associated with the authorized individual.

72. (New) The system of claim 31 wherein the personally identifying information is one of name, address, telephone number, e-mail address and name with birth date.

73. (New) A method for using a system for on-line recruitment of candidates for clinical trials comprising the step of:

receiving over a network from a computer terminal an individual's on-line consent to an electronic agreement for volunteering for consideration as a potential candidate for one of a potential clinical trial and a clinical trial in progress.

74. (New) The method of claim 73 wherein the electronic agreement further comprises volunteering for consideration as a potential candidate for one of multiple potential clinical trials and multiple clinical trials in progress.

75. (New) A method in accordance with claim 73, wherein the electronic agreement is a click wrap consent agreement.

76. (New) A method in accordance with claim 73, further comprising generating an electronic survey form to be displayed at the computer terminal.

77. (New) A method in accordance with claim 76 further comprising displaying the electronic survey form in response to receipt of the individual's consent to the electronic agreement.

78. (New) A method in accordance with claim 76, wherein the electronic survey form comprises at least one of information and medical related questions.

79. (New) A method in accordance with claim 76, further comprising encrypting data entered by the individual in response to the survey form.

80. (New) A method in accordance with claim 79, further comprising transmitting the encrypted data to a secure server via the network.

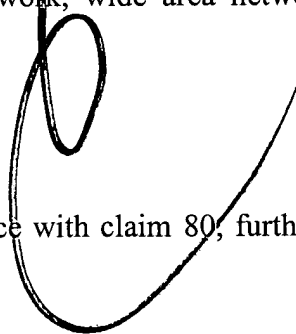
81. (New) A method in accordance with claim 80, wherein the network is one of an Internet, world wide web, intranet, local area network, wide area network, and wireless communication network.

82. (New) A method in accordance with claim 80, further comprising decrypting the data received at said secure server.

83. (New) A method in accordance with claim 82, further comprising storing the decrypted data in a first memory device associated with said secure server.

84. (New) A method in accordance with claim 83, further comprising processing the decrypted data retrieved from the first memory device.

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85. (New) A method in accordance with claim 84, further comprising encrypting the processed data.

86. (New) A method in accordance with claim 85, further comprising replacing the decrypted data in the first memory device with the encrypted processed data.

87. (New) A method in accordance with claim 86, further comprising transmitting the encrypted processed data from said secure server to a central office.

88. (New) A method in accordance with claim 87, further comprising storing the encrypted processed data in a second memory device associated with said central office.

89. (Amended) A method in accordance with claim 88, wherein in response to a request from an authorized individual, further comprising the steps of:

retrieving the encrypted processed data from the second memory device; and

decrypting the retrieved encrypted processed data from the second memory device.

90. (New) A method in accordance with claim 89 wherein the authorized individual reviews the encrypted processed data and selects a potential candidate volunteer as a potential candidate, the method comprising:

communicating to the potential candidate volunteer the selection as the potential candidate.

B2
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91. (New) A method in accordance with claim 90, wherein the communication comprises one of:

(d) the central office contacting the potential candidate in order to request permission for the authorized individual to contact the potential candidate;

(e) the central office providing the authorized individual with contact information for the potential candidate and the authorized individual communicating with the potential candidate; and

(f) the central office communicating to the potential candidate the selection and providing contact information for the potential candidate to initiate contact with the one of the authorized individual and an employee of the clinical trial associated with the authorized individual.

92. (New) A method in accordance with claim 73, further comprising generating a certificate to verify transmission between individual and secure server.

93. A method in accordance with claim 76, wherein the computer terminal employs a web browser capable of supporting a secure socket layer protocol.

94. (New) A method in accordance with claim 82, further comprising ensuring that decrypted data stored at said secure server is not accessed by unauthorized personnel.

95. (New) A method in accordance with claim 94, wherein said ensuring step comprises at least one of limiting access to said secure server to a minimum number of authorized personnel, identifying as authorized personnel only trustworthy employees, and devising and implementing procedures to ensure that only authorized personnel gain access to the decrypted data.

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96. (New) A method in accordance with claim 73, further comprising using said secure server to generate an electronic opt-out form to be displayed on the computer terminal, the opt-out form providing for the subsequent removal of the individual from consideration as a possible candidate for one of a potential clinical trial and a clinical trial in progress based on the individual entering personally identifying information on the opt-out form.

97. (New) A method in accordance with claim 73, wherein the electronic agreement satisfies all federal, state, and local rules, ordinances and regulations.

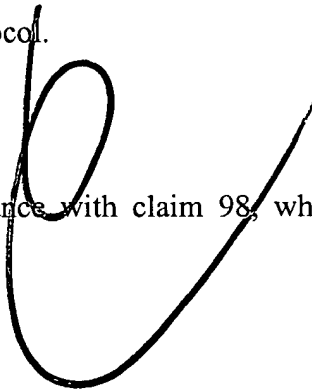
98. (New) A method in accordance with claim 85, wherein said secure server encrypts the data based on a shareware encryption protocol.

99. (New) A method in accordance with claim 98, wherein said shareware encryption protocol is Pretty Good Privacy.

100. (New) A method in accordance with claim 89, wherein said decryption of the retrieved encrypted data from the second memory device is performed using encryption keys stored on a disk kept under physical surveillance.

101. (New) The method of claim 100 wherein the personally identifying information is one of name, address, telephone number, e-mail address and name with birth date.

B2
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102. (New) The method of claim 73 wherein the electronic agreement further relates to the release of at least one of medical and personally identifying information.

103. (New) A method in accordance with claim 102, wherein the electronic agreement is a click wrap consent agreement.

104. (New) A method in accordance with claim 102, further comprising generating an electronic survey form to be displayed at the computer terminal.

105. (New) A method in accordance with claim 104 further comprising displaying the electronic survey form in response to receipt of the individual's consent to the electronic agreement.

106. (New) A method in accordance with claim 104, wherein the electronic survey form comprises at least one of information and medical related questions.

107. (New) A method in accordance with claim 104, further comprising encrypting data entered by the individual in response to the survey form.

108. (New) A method in accordance with claim 107, further comprising transmitting the encrypted data to a secure server via the network.

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109. (New) A method in accordance with claim 108, wherein the network is one of an Internet, world wide web, intranet, local area network, wide area network, and wireless communication network.

110. (New) A method in accordance with claim 108, further comprising decrypting the data received at said secure server.

111. (New) A method in accordance with claim 110, further comprising storing the decrypted data in a first memory device associated with said secure server.

112. (New) A method in accordance with claim 111, further comprising processing the decrypted data retrieved from the first memory device.

113. (New) A method in accordance with claim 112, further comprising encrypting the processed data.

114. (New) A method in accordance with claim 113, further comprising replacing the decrypted data in the first memory device with the encrypted processed data.

115. (New) A method in accordance with claim 114, further comprising transmitting the encrypted processed data from said secure server to a central office.

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116. (New) A method in accordance with claim 115, further comprising storing the encrypted processed data in a second memory device associated with said central office.

117. (New) A method in accordance with claim 116, wherein in response to a request from an authorized individual, further comprising the steps of:

retrieving the encrypted processed data from the second memory device; and

decrypting the retrieved encrypted processed data from the second memory device.

118. (New) A method in accordance with claim 117 wherein the authorized individual reviews the encrypted processed data and selects a potential candidate volunteer as a potential candidate, the method comprising:

communicating to the potential candidate volunteer the selection as the potential candidate.

119. (New) A method in accordance with claim 118 wherein the communication comprises one of:

(g) the central office contacting the potential candidate in order to request permission for the authorized individual to contact the potential candidate;

(h) the central office providing the authorized individual with contact information for the potential candidate and the authorized individual communicating with the potential candidate; and

(i) the central office communicating to the potential candidate the selection and providing contact information for the potential candidate to initiate contact with the one of the authorized individual and an employee of the clinical trial associated with the authorized individual.

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120. (New) A method in accordance with claim 102, further comprising generating a certificate to verify transmission between individual and secure server.

121 (New) A method in accordance with claim 104, wherein the computer terminal employs a web browser capable of supporting a secure socket layer protocol.

122. (New) A method in accordance with claim 110, further comprising ensuring that decrypted data stored at said secure server is not accessed by unauthorized personnel.

123. (New) A method in accordance with claim 122, wherein said ensuring step comprises at least one of limiting access to said secure server to a minimum number of authorized personnel, identifying as authorized personnel only trustworthy employees, and devising and implementing procedures to ensure that only authorized personnel gain access to the decrypted data.

124. (New) A method in accordance with claim 102, further comprising using said secure server to generate an electronic opt-out form to be displayed on the computer terminal, the opt-out form providing for the subsequent removal of the individual from consideration as a possible candidate for one of a potential clinical trial and a clinical trial in progress based on the individual entering personally identifying information on the opt-out form.

125. (New) A method in accordance with claim 102, wherein the electronic agreement satisfies all federal, state, and local rules, ordinances and regulations.

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126. (New) A method in accordance with claim 113, wherein said secure server encrypts the data based on a shareware encryption protocol.

127. (New) A method in accordance with claim 126, wherein said shareware encryption protocol is Pretty Good Privacy.

128. (New) A method in accordance with claim 117, wherein said decryption of the retrieved encrypted data from the second memory device is performed using encryption keys stored on a disk kept under physical surveillance.

129. (New) The method of claim 128 wherein the personally identifying information is one of name, address, telephone number, e-mail address and name with birth date.

130. (New) The method of claim 73 wherein the personally identifying information comprises one of name, address, telephone number, e-mail address and name with birth date and the medical information comprises medical data relevant to being selected as a candidate for one of a potential clinical trial and a clinical trial in progress.

131. (New) A method for using a system for on-line recruitment of candidates for clinical trials comprising the step of:

receiving over a network from a computer terminal an individual's on-line consent to an electronic agreement for volunteering for consideration as a member of a pool of potential candidates for review and selection for one of a potential clinical trial and a clinical trial in progress.

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132. (New) A method for using a system for on-line recruitment of candidates for clinical trials comprising the step of:

providing an enrollment interface generated by a server over a computer network for access by a plurality of remote computer terminals, the enrollment interface including an electronic agreement for volunteering for consideration as a potential candidate for one of a potential clinical trial and a clinical trial in progress, whereby a plurality of remote individuals can provide electronic consent to the electronic agreement via the remote computer terminals.

133. (New) The method of 132 wherein the computer network is one of an Internet, world wide web, intranet, local area network, wide area network, and wireless communication network.

134. (New) A method for using a system for on-line recruitment of candidates for clinical trials comprising the step of:

providing on-line consent by an individual at a computer terminal to an electronic agreement for volunteering for consideration as a potential candidate for one of a potential clinical trial and a clinical trial in progress.

135. (New) The method of claim 134 wherein the electronic agreement further comprises volunteering for consideration as a potential candidate for one of multiple potential clinical trials and multiple clinical trials in progress.

136. (New) The method of claim 134 wherein the electronic agreement further relates to the release of at least one of medical and personally identifying information.

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comprising:

a secure server generating an enrollment interface for transmission over a computer network for access by a plurality of remote computer terminals, the enrollment interface including an electronic agreement for volunteering for consideration as a potential candidate for one of a potential clinical trial and a clinical trial in progress, whereby a plurality of remote individuals can provide electronic consent to the electronic agreement via the remote computer terminals.

142. (New) The system of 141 wherein the computer network is one of an Internet, world wide web, intranet, local area network, wide area network, and wireless communication network.

143. (New) A computer database including a plurality of electronic records, each electronic record corresponding to an individual who has volunteered as a potential candidate for one of a potential clinical trial and a clinical trial in progress, the database comprising:

each of the records including at least one piece of medical and personally identifying information about the individual and an electronic consent to volunteer as a potential candidate for one of a potential clinical trial and a clinical trial in progress provided by the individual by routing an acceptance of an electronic agreement over a computer network.

144. (New) The computer database of claim 143, wherein the acceptance of the electronic agreement is generated based on the electronic agreement being displayed at a computer terminal and the individual providing an acceptance to the agreement at the computer terminal.

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145. (New) The computer database of claim 143, wherein the medical information is generated based on a health survey being displayed at a computer terminal and the individual providing the information as input at the computer terminal.

146. (New) The computer database of claim 143 wherein the computer network comprises one of an Internet, world wide web, Intranet, local area network, wide area network, and wireless communication network.

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147. (New) A method of selecting a candidate for a clinical trial from a computer database including a plurality of potential candidate records, each record corresponding to an individual who has provided on-line consent to an agreement for volunteering as a potential candidate for one of a potential clinical trial and a clinical trial in progress, the method comprising the steps of:

applying a selection criterion to at least one of the potential candidate records;

identifying a potential candidate record which matches the criterion; and

selecting the individual corresponding to the potential candidate record which matches the criterion for possible participation in the clinical trial.

148. (New) The method of claim 147 further comprising contacting the individual corresponding to the potential candidate record which matches the criterion to request that the individual participate in the clinical trial.